

**Contact the  
Animal Health Branch**

Protecting California's livestock requires a partnership between veterinarians, livestock producers, livestock industry groups and government agencies. Contact an AHB office for information on:

- Reportable animal diseases and conditions
- Livestock movement requirements
- Emergency preparedness
- Veterinary Accreditation
- Foreign Animal Disease suspects
- Tuberculosis
- Brucellosis
- Scrapie
- Pseudorabies
- Johne's Disease
- Trichomonosis
- West Nile Virus
- Equine Infectious Anemia

AHB personnel are also available to give presentations at group meetings and seminars on these and other topics related to protection of animal health.



## California Department of Food and Agriculture

**Animal Health Branch  
1220 N Street, Room A-107  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Headquarters	(916) 654-1447
Redding District	(530) 225-2140
Modesto District	(209) 491-9350
Tulare District	(559) 685-3500
Ontario District	(909) 947-4462

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov>

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**United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Services  
Veterinary Services  
10365 Old Placerville Road, Suite 210  
Sacramento, CA 95827**

Telephone	(916) 854-3900
Toll Free	(877) 741-3690

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/)



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

**Animal Health and Food Safety Services  
Animal Health Branch**

## Role of the Animal Health Branch



**June 2007**

## Origin of the Animal Health Branch

The legislature established the office of the California State Veterinarian in 1899 to “protect the health of all domestic animals of the State”. Though the functions of the Animal Health Branch (AHB) have diversified in response to changes in agriculture and public health, its mission remains the same. The AHB is the State’s organized professional veterinary medical unit that protects livestock populations, consumers, and California’s economy from catastrophic animal diseases and other health or agricultural problems to ensure available, affordable and wholesome food. The staff focuses on diseases and problems that cannot be successfully controlled on an individual animal or herd level, but require statewide coordinated resources.



## Animal Health Branch Programs

The AHB manages programs designed to protect California’s livestock and poultry industries to include animal production food safety, livestock health management, emergency disease preparedness, equine medication monitoring, and veterinary biologics programs. For animal disease testing, the AHB utilizes the extensive services of the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory

System laboratories located in Davis, Turlock, Fresno, Tulare and San Bernardino. Approved private laboratories and veterinary clinic laboratories are also used.

## Livestock Health Management Programs

Livestock Health Management Programs coordinate statewide activities to prevent, control and eradicate certain domestic diseases of cattle, sheep, goats, swine, poultry and farmed deer through cooperative industry-state-federal programs and livestock movement controls. The AHB manages surveillance programs for: Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Pseudorabies, Scrapie, Johnne’s, Avian Health, Equine Infectious Anemia, Trichomonosis, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and Chronic Wasting Disease. Personnel also monitor the movement of over two million animals into California each year.

## Emergency Disease Program

The AHB’s highest priority is protecting California’s livestock industries from emergency animal diseases and disasters. The prevention, detection, containment and eradication of emergency diseases are accomplished through outreach and education, disease surveillance and investigation, movement controls and disease eradication procedures.



## Equine Medication Monitoring Program

In 1971, the California horse industry sponsored legislation to deter the misuse of drugs and medications in show and sale horses. The AHB staff coordinates a statewide testing program to deter the use of drugs and medications that may alter the performance and/or behavior of horses at shows and sales.

The California Veterinary Biologics program is the only federally approved state biologics program in the country. To meet the unique needs of the State’s livestock and poultry industries, the program licenses California firms to produce biologic products for sale only in California. The program also issues permits for the sale of USDA licensed biologics in the State.

The AHB headquarters in Sacramento staffs veterinarians and other professionals specializing in regulatory issues. AHB District offices are located in Ontario, Tulare, Modesto and Redding. A Veterinarian in Charge in each district office oversees veterinarians, livestock inspectors and support staff who conduct Branch and program activities in the field.